

REGULATION

The Council of Ministers,

Considering the Charter of the Organization of African Unity,

Considering Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community,

Recalling Decision AHG/OAU/AEC/Dec.1 (II) and Regulation CM/AEC/Regl.1 (III) of the Second and Third Ordinary Sessions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers of the African Economic Community respectively held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in June 1998,

Having considered the progress report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (AEC):

HEREBY RULES:

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters should take the necessary measures to release as early as possible the appropriation corresponding to at least 10% of the OAU Regular Budget pursuant to Para.3 of Decision AHG/OAU/AEC/Dec.1 (II) of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Economic Community;
2. The General Secretariat should propose to the Third Ordinary Session of Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC) of the African Economic Community clear-cut measures to set up a Consultative Forum of African Parliamentarians, as a prelude to the creation of an Pan-African Parliament provided for under Article 14 of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community;
3. Member States should take appropriate steps to implement relevant portions of the Ouagadougou Decision and Regulation, and submit individual reports thereon to the Third Ordinary Session of ECOSOC;
4. Member States which have not yet done so should report to the General Secretariat on implementation of Item 5 of the Ouagadougou decision on free movement;
5. Member States who have not yet done so, are called upon to ratify or accede to the AEC Treaty as early as possible;

6. The General Secretariat should take urgent measures, to establish the African Energy Commission;
7. The setting up of a Group of Experts by the General Secretariat to provide advice within the framework of the ACP-EU negotiation is highly appreciated. Consequently, the General Secretariat should strengthen this group and expand its competence to include negotiations with the WTO;
8. The African States of the ACP Group should effectively participate in the negotiations on a new arrangement with the EU in close collaboration with the Caribbean and Pacific countries;
9. The Secretariat should prepare effectively for UNCTAD X and to that end organize an African preparatory meeting, inter-alia in order to adopt a common position, taking into account an evaluation of the Midrand Declaration of UNCTAD IX within the context of the Specialized Technical Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration as provided for under Article 25 of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community;
10. The General Secretariat should update its study on Africa's debt problem and map out a common strategy together with a critical evaluation of the recently announced initiatives for addressing the debt problem. The General Secretariat should take urgent steps during the Third Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Commission of the African Economic Community to convene a Ministerial meeting of the OAU Contact Group on Africa's External Indebtedness, to be preceded by a meeting of Experts from their Finance Ministers and Central Banks;
11. The 24 Member States of the Contact Group should effectively participate in this meeting, examine Africa's current debt situation and recommend to the Heads of State and Government strategies and measures to be taken by African States to remedy the situation;
12. All Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are called upon to participate more effectively in and support the programmes and activities on the implementation of the AEC Treaty for continental integration. The RECs, particularly in the continental integration process, should report regularly to their decision making organs on the implementation of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community;

13. The host country (Cote d'Ivoire) and the OAU/AEC Secretariat are urged to activate preparations to enable the Eighth All-Africa Trade Fair to take place successfully as scheduled in the year 2000 in Abidjan.

Done in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,
23 March, 1999

Jean PING
Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Cooperation and Francophone Community
of the Republic of Gabon
Chairman of the Council

1999

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